

[Walter Colley]

ES [??] [??] [?]

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Albert Burks Address 239 So. 20th.

Date October 20, 1938 SUBJECT American Folklore

1. Name and address of informant — Walter Colley, 1035 Rose
2. Date and time of interview— Oct. 20, -10:30- 12:00
3. Place of interview —Residence 1035 Rose
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant. None
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you. None
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.— Modern two story house. Parlor where interview took place very neat, modern furniture, over-stuffed set, Piano and radio in opposite corners. Bookcase another corner.

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Albert Burks ADDRESS 239 So. 20.

DATE Oct. 20, 1938 SUBJECT American Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Walter Colley, 1035 Rose

Library of Congress

1. Ancestry- Negro
2. Place and date of birth - Lexington- Laffette Co. [Birth date?]
3. Family -3
4. Place lived in, with dates -Lexington Mo. 1870-1905, Lincoln 1905-1938.
5. Education, with dates. - 5th grade.
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates. -Janitor State Capitol, 14 years.
7. Special skills and interests - Choir Work.
8. Community and religious activities - Methodist
9. Description of informant - Slender, dar, Indian featured.
10. Other points gained in interview. - Great reader, and has educated himself quite well.

Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Albert Burks ADDRESS 239 So. 20

DATE Oct. 3, 1938 SUBJECT American Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Walter Colley 1035 Rose.

"My mother was a slave in Virginia and father was one in Laffette Mo. Father didn't go to war but stayed home and took care of the family, but grand-father went to war. Mother often told me the story of how she went to the spring one day to get water and the Union Army happened to be crossing the bridge which she was under and she had to stay there all day.

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When I was a youngster I worked on a farm and often played in a brass band composed of a bunch of us kids in the community.

We often got jobs playing at the county fairs. We also gave concerts in the opera or at the church. "The Washington March," and "Liberty Bell" were are two big numbers. I was superintendent of our Sunday school when I was fifteen.

In those days the folks were more church like. We had more Spiritual revivals, and had quarterly meetings every three months. On the Monday night following we had Love fleast and if you wasn't at the church by eight o'clock the doors was closed to you and you would have to go back home. Our church was founded in 1870. I was baptistized in infancy and twenty years later was confirmed by the same minister. My favorite spiritual is: 2 As I went down the valley to pray, Studying about the heavenly days, Shall I ever wear that starry crown, Good lord show me the way,

My favorite sermon is: "I'll never turn back no more.

I came to Lincoln with a clothier that operated a store here for a number of years. It was in 1905. It was Easter week and I bought my son a suite so he could have it for Easter Sunday. and told the clerk to send it to Lexington, Mo. but he made n mistake and sent it to Lexington, Nebraska.